

## Press Release

### **EARTO Innovation Awards 2016 Attributed to CEA for the wireLED™ Technology and to UAR-PCCL for the SYNTEGRA UV Technology**

#### **Brussels, 12 October 2016**

The EARTO Innovation Awards 2016 was given to EARTO members [CEA](#) and [UAR-PCCL](#). The Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) received the award in the Impact Expected category for the development of the **wireLED™** technology, a new generation of 3D LEDs with drastically reduced production costs and higher performance. The Polymer Competence Center Leoben GmbH (PCCL), EARTO member through Upper Austrian Research (UAR), received the award in the Impact Delivered category for the development of the **Syntegra UV** technology, an innovative production process which enabled the commercialisation of the first low-allergenic glove.

**The EARTO Innovation Awards** was delivered tonight during a ceremony held at the *BELVue Museum* in Brussels in the presence of **Jyrki Katainen**, Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness in the European Commission. Vice-President Katainen said: *"These prestigious awards are an opportunity to celebrate the innovation and drive so impressively demonstrated by Research and Technology Organisations. They also give us a glimpse of Europe's tomorrow in the tangible impact these projects deliver. I am excited about Europe's potential to tackle the challenges we face with creativity, and in this way to increase jobs, boost growth and strengthen our competitiveness."*

The Awards, created in 2009, illustrate RTOs' concrete contribution to innovation and the two categories, "Impact Delivered" and "Impact Expected", highlight the various areas of RTOs' activities. The best innovations of the year are chosen by the Awards independent jury, comprising:

- **Christian Ehler**, Member of the European Parliament,
- **Clara de la Torre**, Director, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission,
- **Simon Edmonds**, Director Catapult Programme, Innovate UK,
- **Jana Kolar**, Member of the Governing Board, EIT,
- **Jan-Eric Sundgren**, Senior Advisor to the CEO, Volvo and,
- **Erkki Leppävuori**, Former President and CEO, VTT.

#### **Winner Impact Expected Category**

**The Alternative Energies & Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) for the wireLED™ technology - Revolutionary 3D LED innovation: more light, less cost**



LEDs have many advantages over traditional light sources:

they are more efficient, emitting more light while consuming less energy and with a longer life-time. A broad LED deployment would therefore have huge environmental and economic benefits: replacing all traditional lamps by LEDs would reduce Europe's energy consumption by 9% saving €60bn and carbon emission by 42m tons/year. However, their high retail price is still an important barrier. This is why EARTO Member CEA has developed the wireLED™ technology, a new generation of 3D LEDs with drastically reduced production costs and revolutionary performance advantages. This new LED technology should be commercialised by CEA's spin-off Aledia in 2017 at 50% below average selling price. For more information on this innovation click [here](#).

#### **Winner Impact Delivered Category**

**The Polymer Competence Center Leoben GmbH (PCCL), member of Upper Austrian Research (UAR) for the Syntegra UV technology - Towards the next generation of low-allergenic surgical gloves**



The prevention of allergenic reactions related to medical gloves was the driving force in the joint research work of PCCL, EARTO member through UAR, and Semperit, producer of medical gloves. By developing an innovative chemistry for the crosslinking of latex with a cutting-edge production process, the worldwide first low-allergenic glove is commercially available since 2013. These new gloves may improve the quality of life of 1 to 3 million healthcare workers in Europe, while the social, health and economic impact for the general population could go much beyond. The first production line provides a production capacity of more than 20 million pairs of gloves per year. For more information on this innovation click [here](#).

On the same day, EARTO has published the 2016 edition of its “**Innovation Awards**” [brochure](#), a collection of thirty-four innovations featuring EARTO members, which gives a flavor of the wide range of RTOs’ work. Such innovations demonstrate RTOs’ capacity to support Europe’s innovation performance and their focus on solving today’s challenges and delivering impact. The brochure includes articles on all RTOs that took part in this year’s competition with a special focus on the 6 finalists which are, in addition to the two winners CEA and UAR-PCCL:

- [Eurecat](#)’s Ultrason, a technology using ultrasounds for material melting and materialised in Sonorus 1G, the first high precision thermoplastic micro-moulding machine commercialised by Eurecat’s spin-off since 2013 with applications in all industrial sectors. (Impact Delivered)
- [Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft](#)’s superhard diamond-like carbon coatings, an innovative coating technology process to reduce energy losses due to friction in cars’ engines leading to considerable reductions in fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. (Impact Delivered)
- [TNO](#)’s OptiGrip, an innovative instrument giving back the sense of touch to endoscopic surgeons by feeding the actual force applied to patients’ tissues back to surgeons’ fingers in real time, for safer and faster surgeries. (Impact Expected)
- [VITO](#)’s Carbstone process, transforming waste materials and CO<sub>2</sub> into high value construction materials with drastically reduced environmental impact for the production of a range of products, from paving bricks to roofing tiles. (Impact Expected)

Four of the six finalists have received EU funds to develop their innovation, either from the Seventh Framework Programme, from European Structural and Investment Funds, or both.

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#### Notes to Editors

For further information, please contact Kadija Taffah, *Deputy Secretary General, Membership and Communications*, EARTO, +32 (0)2 502 86 98.

Full EARTO Innovation Awards 2016 brochure available [here](#).

**EARTO Innovation Awards** are given since 2009 to illustrate RTOs key contribution to innovation. Two categories have been created: Impact Delivered and Impact Expected. The Impact Delivered Award is given to an innovation already in the market and which has proven its impact on Europe’s economy and/or society, while the Impact Expected category rewards an innovation which is not yet on the market but has great potential.

**Research and Technology Organisations** (RTOs) have a distinct mission and a key role in the knowledge and innovation economy: they produce, integrate and transfer science and technology to help resolve the grand challenges of society and support Europe’s industrial competitiveness. RTOs occupy nodal positions within innovation eco-systems, bringing together key players across the whole innovation chain, from fundamental to technological research, from product and process development to prototyping and demonstration, and on to full-scale implementation in the public and private sectors.

**EARTO** is the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs), a non-profit organisation founded in 1999. EARTO groups over 350 RTOs with a combined staff of 150,000, an annual turnover of €23 billion, special equipment and facilities to a value of many € billions and more than 100,000 customers from the public and private sectors annually. [EARTO Corporate Video](#)

**CEA - Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission** is a French government-funded RTO and a prominent player in the European Research Area. The CEA is active in four main areas: low-carbon energies, defence & security, information technologies and health technologies. The CEA maintains a cross-disciplinary culture of engineers and researchers, building on the synergies between fundamental and technological research.

**UAR – Upper Austrian Research GmbH**, UAR is an Austrian Association of RTOs promoting innovative solutions at the crossroads where fundamental research meets applied research and offering businesses access to R&D of the highest quality. Member of UAR, the **PCCL - Polymer Competence Center Leoben GmbH** is the leading Austrian “Center of Excellence” for cooperative research in the area of polymer engineering and sciences.

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